

Images in cardio-thoracic surgery

Port implantation into the aortic arch: an unusual complication requiring urgent cardiac surgery

Maximilian Y. Emmert^{*}, Simon Suendermann, Volkmar Falk, Markus J. Wilhelm

Clinic for Cardiovascular Surgery, University Hospital Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

Received 30 June 2010; received in revised form 26 July 2010; accepted 29 July 2010; Available online 17 September 2010

Keywords: Port implantation; Aortic arch; Complication

A port-a-cath was accidentally inserted into an arterial vessel of a 78-year-old woman. Chest X-ray was suggestive for aortic placement (Fig. 1A) being confirmed by computed tomography (Fig. 1B). The patient was immediately

scheduled for surgery, which could be performed without cardiopulmonary bypass (Fig. 1C and D). The patient made a swift recovery.

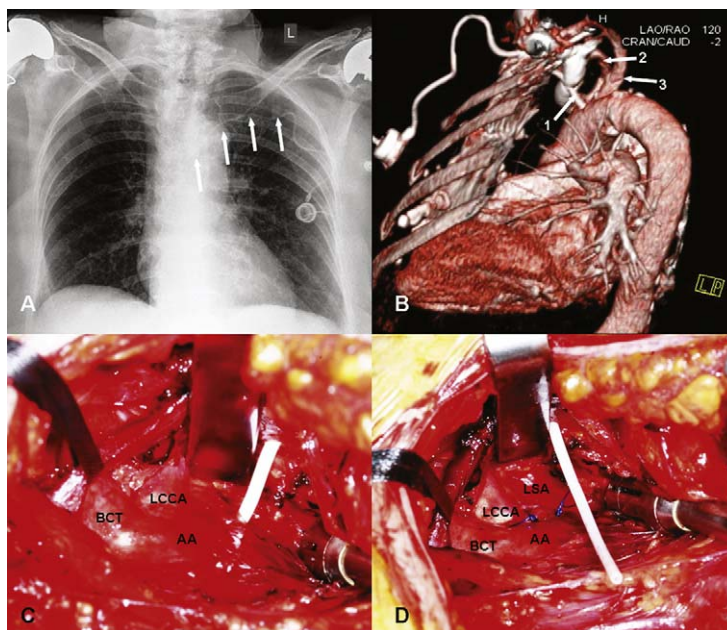


Fig. 1. (A) Port-a-cath as shown in the preoperative X-ray. Arrows indicate course of catheter. (B) 3D-reconstruction of computed tomography scan (left-posterior view) displays the port-a-cath (1) penetrating the aortic arch between the origin of the left carotid (2) and left subclavian artery (3). (C and D) Intra-operative view of the Port-a-cath before (C) and after removal (D) from the aortic arch. After sternotomy and extrapericardial exposure of the aortic arch, two purse string sutures were placed on the aortic arch around the device which allowed port removal without bleeding. AA: aortic arch; BCT: brachio-cephalic trunk; LCCA: left common carotid artery; LSA: left subclavian artery.

^{*} Corresponding author. Address: Department of Cardiovascular Surgery, University Hospital Zurich, Raemi Street 100, 8091 Zurich, Switzerland. Tel.: +41 442553298; fax: +41 442554446.
E-mail address: maximilian.emmert@usz.ch (M.Y. Emmert).